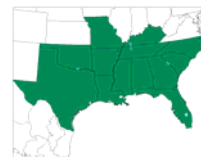


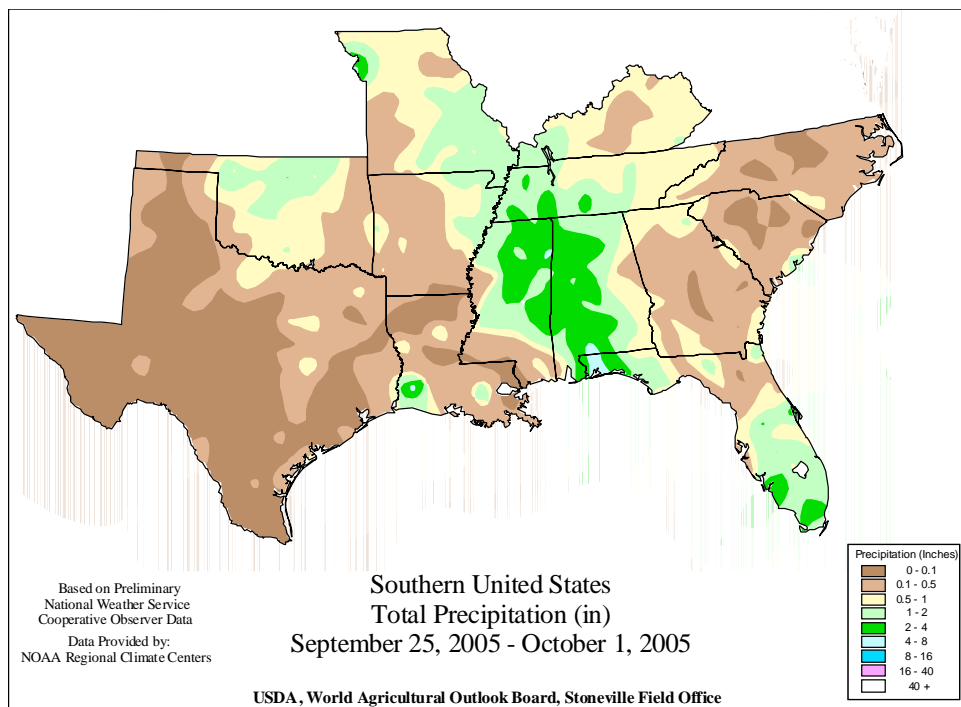


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

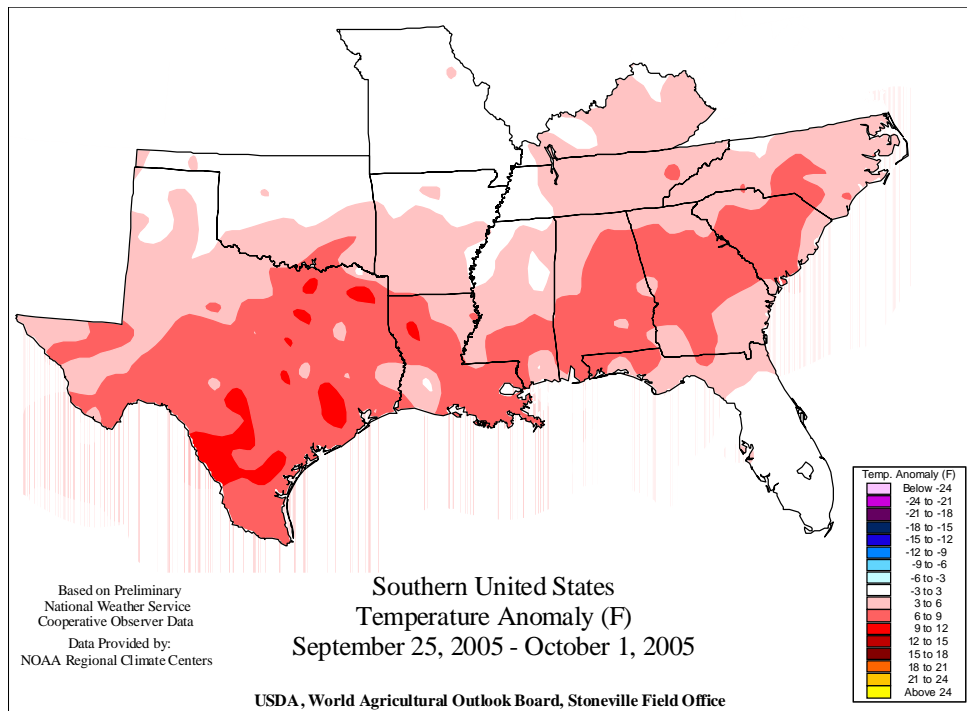
September 25 to October 1, 2005



Weather Highlights

As the remnants of Hurricane Rita continued to move northeast after landfall, it affected the weather pattern for portions of the southern U.S. After Rita's initial landfall in southwest Louisiana on the 24th, 1-4 inches of rain fell in Mississippi, Alabama and portions of Tennessee early in the week. However, the heaviest rain fell in the Florida panhandle, where 4 to 8 inches of rain was observed. Elsewhere, central to south Florida received .50 to 4 inches of rain.

Most of the southern half of the United States stayed extremely hot and dry, while the northern half remained near normal. Weekly temperature departures up to 12 degrees F above normal occurred in many areas of Texas, and at least 3 to 6 degrees F above normal for at least seven other states. Some areas experienced daily departures, associated with Rita and/or a late-week front. For example, peak winds from Rita, as reported by NWS, were 74 mph at North Jetty, and 62 mph at Galveston. Later in the week, a sweeping cold front also brought strong northerly winds to parts of the region, which decreased daily temperatures.



In the northern Mississippi Delta, weekly temperatures averaged near normal to slightly below, while temperatures in central and southern areas were above average. Locations still recorded daily highs of 90 degree F or more, but the early-week effects from Hurricane Rita and a late-week cold front caused temperatures to fluctuate. On Sunday, September 25, Rita brought up to 4 inches of rainfall along with isolated tornados and high winds. Strong winds returned with the late-week cold front, producing wind gusts up to 30 mph and temperatures dropping to the lower 50's at night and the 70's during the day.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
		October 2, 2005	September 25, 2005	October 2, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Bolls Opening	77	68	75	82
	Harvested	20	15	19	23
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	57	58	70	---
Corn	Mature	90	76	72	84
	Harvested	26	18	23	26
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	55	52	73	---
Rice	Harvested	72	60	83	77
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	93	83	84	85
	Harvested	36	19	33	30
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	56	55	66	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were open on 77 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 75 percent last year and 82 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty percent of the crop had been harvested, 1 point ahead of last year and 3 point behind the 5-year average. Louisiana had 53 percent of their crop harvested, 7 points ahead of their 5-year average and 30 points ahead of last year, the only southern state ahead of their 5-year average harvest pace. Harvest continued in all southern states and began in Oklahoma. Nationally, crop conditions declined 1 percentage point from the previous week to 57 percent of the crop rated good to excellent.

Corn:

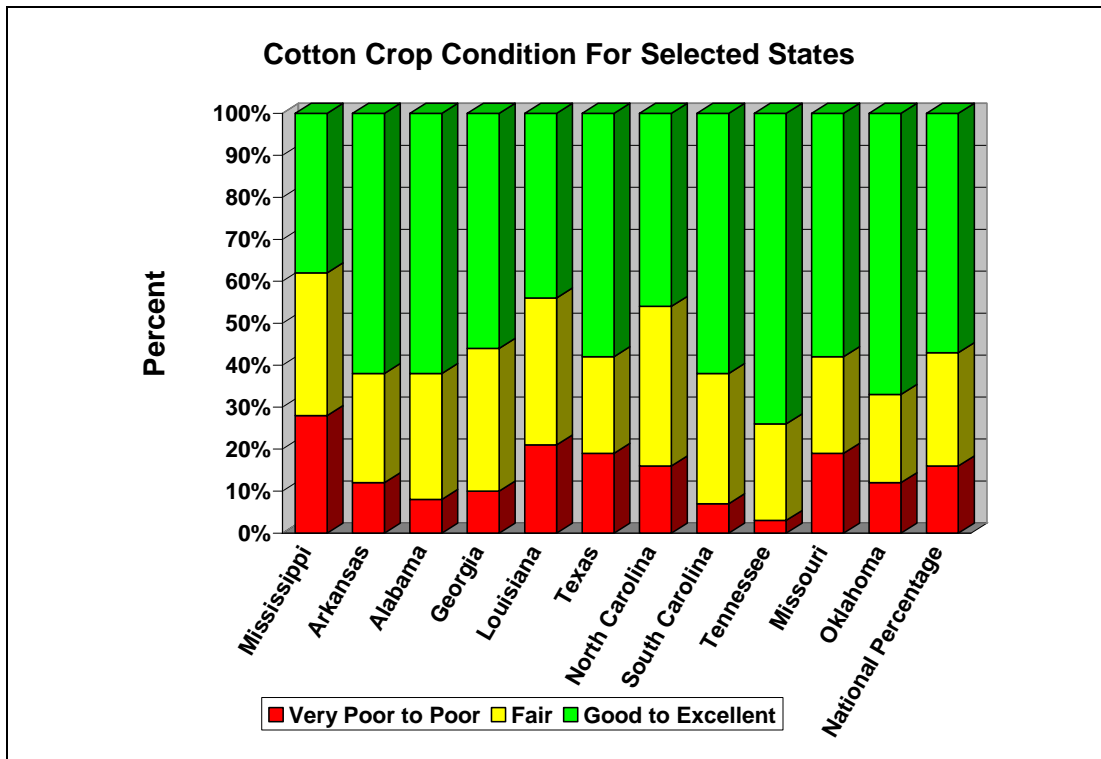
Twenty-six percent of the nation's crop had been harvested, 3 points ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average. Harvest continued in all of the southern states, was completed in Louisiana, and was near completion in Mississippi with 97 percent harvested. Nationally, crop acreage rated good to excellent improved 3 points from the previous week.

Rice:

Nationally, 72 percent of the acreage had been harvested, 11 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average pace. Harvest continued in all of the southern states and neared completion in Texas with 99 percent of their crop harvested, equaling their 5-year average harvest pace. Mississippi's crop conditions declined 3 points to 47 percent rated good to excellent, the lowest of any southern state.

Soybeans:

Nationally, 36 percent of the soybean acres had been harvested, 3 points ahead of last year's pace and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average pace. Progress was most advanced in Mississippi where 81 percent had been harvested. The U.S. soybean crop, with 56 percent of the acres rated good to excellent, improved 1 point from the previous week.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 57 percent of the cotton acreage was rated good to excellent, a 1 point decline from the previous week. Mississippi improved their crop condition estimate by 4 percentage points from the previous week to 38 percent good to excellent, the lowest of any southern state. Louisiana's cotton acres, at 44 percent rated good to excellent, improved 24 points from the previous week. Arkansas, with last week's best rated crop, reduced their good to excellent crop rating by 14 points to 62 percent. Tennessee (74 percent good to excellent) reported the best crop condition ratings of the southern states.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)